## SUMMER 2022

# Summary guidance on Advance information for GCSE, AS and A level qualifications

The summary below has been agreed across JCQ awarding organisations (AOs). Whilst the tabulated information in this document is specific to Pearson Edexcel qualifications, the approach has been developed and agreed across all AOs and all AOs are publishing this information at the same time. Each AO's summary of advance information includes this common summary to ensure that all students and teachers receive a consistent message, whichever AO(s) they use for GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in 2022.

## What to expect from Pearson Edexcel

**How will this summary support your understanding and expectations of advance information?**

This summary aims to give teachers and students an indication of the approach that will be taken to advance information in each qualification for Pearson Edexcel.[1] Each awarding organisation has produced a similar summary based on the approach they are taking for each qualification. This summary is not the advance information itself which will be released online, for all subjects, by 7 February 2022 at the latest unless the Department for Education (DfE) decides on an earlier release date. At least a week's notice will be given if it is decided that advance information will be released earlier than 7 February 2022. **Note:** Advance information will only be available from the Pearson Edexcel website. It will not be available from any other source.

Advance information is just one of the measures being taken to help support teachers and students for the summer 2022 exam series.[2] For details of all the measures being taken, in addition to advance information, please see: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/campaigns/summer-2022-support.html

This summary:

- is specific to Pearson Edexcel and should be read alongside the JCQ *Advance Information for Ofqual Regulated General Qualifications, Summer 2022* (https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Advance-Information-for-General-Qualifications-2021-22.pdf),
- indicates what to expect when the advance information is published,
- is not the advance information itself. Each awarding organisation has published a summary to help you understand what you will receive in February to cover an equivalent level of detail for their GCSE, AS and A level qualifications.[1]

[1] Advance information will be available for the majority of GCSE, AS and A level subjects. There will be advance information for all subjects except GCSE English Literature, History, Ancient History, Geography and Art & Design, and A/AS level Art & Design. The exceptions are either because of the nature of assessments in those subjects (assessment is by NEA in Art & Design qualifications) or because, following consultation by DfE and Ofqual, it has been decided that advance information will not be provided in subjects where optionality is being introduced for 2022.

[2] Advance information will also be provided for GCSE English language and GCSE mathematics exams scheduled for Autumn term 2022. It will be different from the advance information provided for GCSE English language and GCSE mathematics exams in summer 2022 but will follow exactly the same principles described in this document.

**Why is this summary being published ahead of release of the advance information?**

Advance information is intended to communicate, ahead of the examinations, the focus of the content of the exams or part of the exams that will be assessed in the examination papers. As stated by DfE, the purpose of advance information is to support revision. The principles applied to every subject by each awarding organisation when developing advance information are the same,

- We have avoided providing so much detail that answers to likely questions could be pre-prepared and memorised.
- We have made sure advance information does not:
    - undermine the value of the qualification in supporting student progression,
    - directly provide answers to other, potentially low tariff (mark), questions,
    - compromise the capability of the examinations to sufficiently differentiate between students' performances.

A consequence of the agreed principles for advance information is that it will not always be possible to detail everything that is in the examination. In some cases, this would risk undermining good education, progression, or fair results; in others it would be unhelpful to teachers and students, for example by listing all topics which could lead to excessive teaching or revision on areas that are worth few marks. This means that in some subjects for instance the advance information will not apply to certain papers or parts of papers.

We have produced this summary to help teachers and students better understand some of the restrictions on advance information (for example what can be covered and so you know what to expect for the subjects you teach or study), to aid planning in advance of the release of advance information.

**Key points to remember for advance information. It**

- can be used flexibly by centres to achieve its purpose of supporting revision. Advance information should not, however, be used to narrow teaching and learning.
- can be used by teachers in supporting their students' revision and referred to by students in their revision and final examination preparation.
- cannot be brought into the examinations.
- will not be at a level that allows questions to be predicted or answers prepared.

A good, broad understanding of all the content of the specification is always the best preparation for success in an examination. Teachers and students should bear in mind that prior learning in a key idea or topic area might provide useful knowledge and understanding and be required for students to be able to answer questions fully. This is particularly the case, for instance, for synoptic[3] questions and those questions marked using a levels of response mark scheme.

Students' preparation for examinations should continue to focus on knowledge and understanding that can be applied appropriately in the context of unseen examination questions.

If you have any queries on the information provided in this document please contact https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/contact-us.html

[3] Synoptic questions are those that give students the opportunity to draw together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the full course of study.

**Advance information guidance**

**GCE French, German, Spanish, Chinese, Italian and Russian**

We will provide advance information for:
- Paper 1 (Listening, Reading and Translation);
- Paper 2 (Translation section only); and
- Paper 3, Task 1 (Speaking, Discussion on a theme).

Advance information will indicate the theme, sub-theme and aspect targeted by the relevant sections in Papers 1, 2 and 3. The advance information will be presented in specification order, not in question order.

There is a consistent approach across all Pearson 2016/17 GCE Language qualifications.